

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 /012 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 208754

TOSEC 42

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION DIA INFO JCS, SECSTATE, CIA, DAO PARIS,
CAIRO, TRIPOLI, USCINCEUR, USUN, JERUSALEM, AMMAN,
DAO BEIRUT, AND CINCUSNAVEUR FROM DAO TEL AVIV OCT 20,
REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE

S E C R E T 1842 OCT 73.

SUBJ: LIBYAN MIRAGES IN EGYPT(U).

FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE CALLED ON AAIRA AND GAVE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION ON SUBJECT:

1. (S) FRENCH GOVT NOW BELIEVES LIBYANMIRAGE ACFT ARE FLYING
WITH EGYPTIAN AF, PILOTED BY EGYPTIANS. FRANCE WANTS TO TAKE
A STAND, PREFERABLY BEFORE THE CESSATION OF PRESENT HOSTILITIES,
THAT WOULD IMPROVE HER IMAGE IN ISRAEL, WHILE NOT DAMAGING
FRANCO-ARAB RELATIONS. COMMENT: FRENCH STAND COULD PRESUMABLY
BE IN THE FORM OF SANCTIONS AGAINST LIBYA FOR RENEGING ON

CONDITIONS OF SALE OF ACFT AND PROBABLY A FRENCH EMBARGO OF ANY
MILITARY EQUIPMENT ON ORDER FROM FRANCE, BUT NOT YET DELIVERED.

2. (S) GOF WILL NOT MAKE ANY MOVE UNTIL IT HAS UNDENIABLE
PROOF THAT MIRAGES DELIVERED TO LIBYA HAVE BEEN IN COMBAT AGAINST
ISRAEL. BEST RPOOF DESIRED IS PORTIONS OF THE ACFT CLAIMED

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SHOT DOWN ON SINAI FRONT BY ISRAELIS, BUT THIS IS DIFFICULT

TO ACQUIRE AT PRESENT BECAUSE LOCATIONS OF REPORTED OWNED
MIRAGES ARE IN THE SEA NORTH OF NE SINAI, OR IN THE MARSHES
OF NW SINAI.

3. (S) FRENCH MILATT IS ATTEMPTING TO ACQUIRE PROOF NEEDED
AND HAS REQUESTED IDF TO PROVIDE ANY MATERIAL OR INFO THEY MAY
HAVE THAT MAY SUPPORT THE ACCUSATION. IDF SAID THEY WOULD BE
HAPPY TO COMPLY, BUT AT PRESENT IDF IS OCCUPIED WITH WAR AND A
SCAVENGER PARTY IN THE MARSHLANDS IS NOT FEASIBLE. NEVERTHELESS,
FRENCH ATTACHE IS COMPILING AND FORWARDING ALL BITS AND PIECES
OF INFO HE COLLECTS TO FRANCE. SO FAR, HE HAS COLLECTED THE
FOLLOWING:

A. IDF SOLDIER IN HOSPITAL WAS INTERVIEWED, IN FRENCH,
FOR LOCAL FRENCH LANGUAGE NEWSCAST. SOLDIER STATED HE WAS
ON SINAI FRONT AND OBSERVED MIGS ATTACKING IDF POSITIONS.
MIGS WERE FOLLOWED BY MIRAGES AND HE THOUGHT MIRAGES WERE
IAF ACFT UNTIL THEY, TOO, ATTACKED IDF POSITIONS. SOLDIER
NOTED THAT UNDERSIDES OF MIRAGES WERE PAINTED RED.

B. M/GEN GONEN, C O SOUTHERN CMD, STATED IN PRESS
INTERVIEW THAT LIBYAN MIRAGES HAD BEEN SEEN FLYING OVER SINAI.
WHEN ASKED HOW GROUND TROOPS COULD DISTINGUISH LIBYAN FROM
IAF MIRAGES, HE SAID IT WAS EASY: LIBYAN MIRAGES WERE PAINTED
RED ON UNDERSIDE OF ACFT.

C. UNIDENTIFIED U N OBSERVER AT UN O.P. RUBBER NEAR CANAL
OBSERVED ACFT WHICH BOMBED HIS O.P. (NO SERIOUS DAMAGE). HE
WAS UNSURE, BUT THOUGHT ACFT WERE MIRAGES: HOWEVER, HE WAS
POSITIVE THAT UNDERSIDES OF ACFT WERE RED.

D. ISRAEL PRESS AND RADIO HAVE REPORTED 5 LIBYAN MIRAGES
DOWNED IN NW SINAI FRONT.

4. (S) FRENCH MILATT STATED THAT CHIEFS OF STAFF OF FRENCH
MILITARY AND AIR FORCE HAVE KNOWN FOR YEARS THAT SOME MIRAGE
PILOT TRAINED IN
FRANCE WITH LIBYAN PASSPORTS WERE ACTUALLY
EGYPTIANS AND GOF WAS INFORMED BUT PREFERRED TO IGNORE THIS.
FRIENDS OF SOURCE, SOME OF WHICH WERE COMMANDERS OF BASES
WHERE LIBYANS TRAINED, SAID THAT IN ROOM OF SOME TRAINEES,
PICTURES OF QADHAFI WERE DISPLAYED, WHILE IN OTHER ROOMS PICTURES
OF NASSER WERE FOUND. THIS, ALONG WITH OTHER CORROBORATIVE
EVIDENCE PROVIDED TO FRENCH MILITARY THAT SOME STUDENTS WERE
EGYPTIAN.

5. (S) NOW THAT GOF IS CONVINCED OF ACFT TRANSFERS FROM
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KIBYA TO EGYPT, AND THAT THESE ACFT HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED IN
COMAT, THE FRENCH ATTACHE IN ISRAEL IS PUT ON THE SPOT TO
COME UP WITH HARD PROOF TO CONFIRM. FRENCH ATTACHE HAS ACCEPTED
THE CHALLENGE AND IS PURSUING THIS MATTER WITH VIGOR IN AN ALMOST
PERSONAL CRUSADE IN AN ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE HIS OWN AND HIS
EMBASSY'S STATUS IN ISRAEL. IF GOF CAN TAKE A POSITIVE STAND
AGAINST THIS ACFT TRANSFER HE FEELS THIS WILL THAW THE
ATMOSPHERE OF IN-COUNTRY FRENCH-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIPS AND

IMPROVE AND EXPAND HIS PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS
WITH THE HOST COUNTRY. COORD WITH POL.
XGDS-1

UNQUOTE RUSH

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